TALES OF
TELLOS
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DEZAGO
TOTA
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Image Comics presents...

TALES OF TELLOS™

Created by
Todd Dezago and Mike Wieringo

"The Mage of Shades"

story by Todd Dezago
art by Ciro Tota
color by Mauricet & Benoit Bekaert
letters by Ed Dukeshire

"A Walk in the Woods"

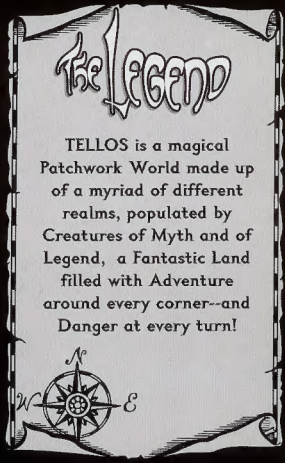
story by Thierry Mornet & Todd Dezago
art by Bruno Bessadi
color by Bruno Pradelle

"The Legend of Oge K'Tion" Part 1

story by Todd Dezago
art by Mauricet
color by BENBK
letters by Ed Dukeshire

"Two Halves" Pinup

by Carlo Barberi
inks by Oscar Carreno
color by Edgar Delgado



Cover by Mike Wieringo
Cover Color by Val Staples

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Meanwhile, some 43 suns earlier--

--in the far off land of Ona-Li--

--where some of you might be experiencing a mild sensation of deja vu...

Well, Tom-dude, there they go. Sucks that my arms broke and, y'know, I can't go with 'em.

I hope that Malegeur jerk doesn't get their number this time...

Dude! D'ya ever see him...? My arm wasn't broke my all...? Dude, I would seriously mess him up!

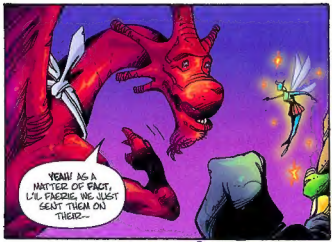
Like, I'd do some Kung-Fu and some Yo-Hamasug-Lu...

Dude, how do ya think that Malegeur did get the scoop on those elves...?

For once...Dude...I am completely stump--

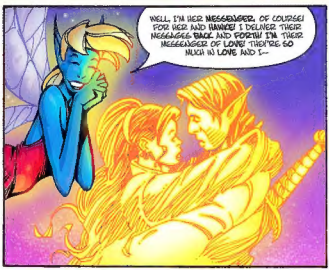
Hoin hyah good morning! Good morgun!

Excuse me but hang either of you gentlemen seen a black-haired pirate captain girl named Sorra...?


YEAH! AS A MATTER OF FACT, L'IL FAERIE, WE JUST SENT THEM ON THEIR--

--OW!
YO, TOM, MAN-- WATCH IT WITH THE STICK! LIKE, I'M JUST TRYIN' TO TELL HER THAT-- OWW!

AND WHY, MIGHT I ASK, WOULD YOU BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT, MY DEAR? WHAT TRAFFIC WOULD YOU HAVE WITH A PIRATE?


WELL, I'M HER MESSENGER, OF COURSE! FOR HER AND HANKE! I DELIVER THEIR MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH! I'M THEIR MESSENGER OF LOVE! THEY'RE SO MUCH IN LOVE AND I--

AND SO, BECAUSE YOU'RE THEIR... MESSENGER OF LOVE, YOU KNOW OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS MOST OF THE TIME I'D IMAGINE...?
UH HUH...
TELL ME-- WHO ELSE MIGHT KNOW OF THEIR-- AND YOUR-- COMINGS AND GOINGS...?

WELL, JUST LUDI, MY DISPATCHER. I HAFTA REPORT INTO HIM WHENEVER I--

THAT'S IT!
THAT MUST BE HOW HE'S FINDING OUT! THIS LUDI MUST BE IN LEAGUE WITH MALEGUS, TELLING HIM WHERE THEY'VE BEEN ALL ALONG!
YOUNG LADY, YOU HAVE UNWITTINGLY PLACED YOUR FRIENDS IN GREAT JEOPARDY!

OH, NO! NO NO NO NO!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

NO NO NO NO--

DUDE...YA MADE HER CRY.

I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
GO AFTER HER, BRAD. TRY TO CONSOLE HER AND PLEASE APOLOGIZE FOR ME...

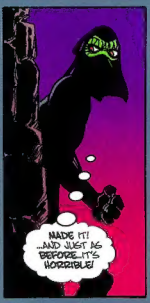
I'M GOING TO TRANSPORT MYSELF BACK INTO MALEGUR'S LAIR, DISGUISED AS ONE OF HIS SHADOW-JUMPERS--

--AND TRY TO DISCOVER WHAT MALEGUR KNOWS ABOUT VARRK, SERRA AND KOVU'S NEXT DESTINATION!

'KAY, DUDE. BE STEALTHY!
THANK YOU, BRAD. AND GOOD LU--

AND SHORTLY--
MALESUR'S CITADEL, IN THE NETHER-REALM OF AIR--

--WHERE A THIN RIBBON OF SHADOW DETACHES ITSELF AND BEGINS TO WRIGGLE AND TWIST, UNFOLDING TO BECOME...


MADE IT! ...AND JUST AS BEFORE...IT'S HORRIBLE!

I CAN ACTUALLY FEEL THE EVIL SEEPING FROM EVERY STONE OF THIS PLACE!

HAVE TO CLEAR MY MIND. THESE SHADOWLIMPERS COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY AND I CAN'T ALLOW MY THOUGHTS TO BETRAY MY IDENTITY OR WHAT I'M DOING HERE...

JUST TRY TO BLEND IN AND MAYBE I CAN FIND--

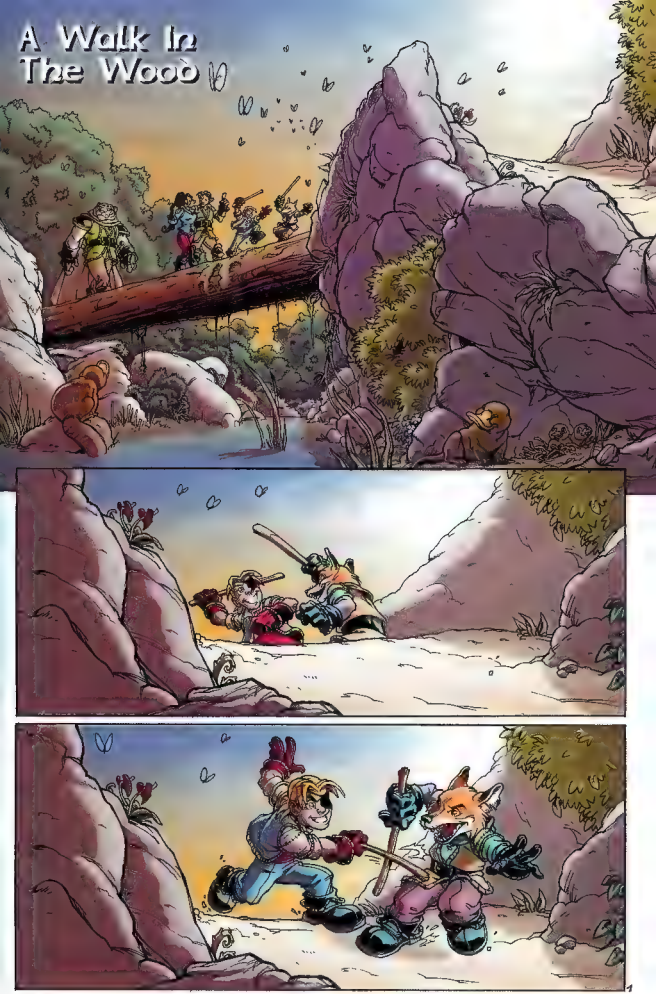
BY THE LIGHT!

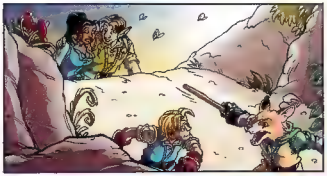
THE TIME, SHADOWLUNDERS, HAS FINALLY COME! ALTHOUGH THAT STUPID AMULET SHIELDS MY ENGINES FROM MY SIGHT, I'VE GOT AN INSIDE SOURCE WHO'S LET ME KNOW RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE!
IT'LL BE A SNAP TO FIND THEM AND DESTROY THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
AS I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND TELLOS BETTER—AND ESPECIALLY MY PLACE IN IT—MY POWER HAS GROWN! AND WITH THIS NEW POWER, I CAN SEE...
WHAT THE--?
I CAN SEE... THAT WE HAVE AN INTRUDER IN OUR MIDST--
--JUST A MURMUR OF THOUGHTS SEPARATE FROM THE HIVE-MIND YOU LUNDERS SHARE...
...THERE!!
ZAKT!
UNGH!
FWASSH!

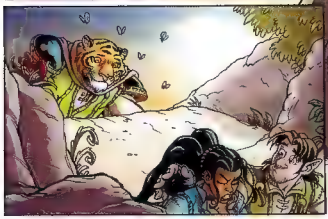
HAVE TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
CHOOM!
AHHHHRR!
THAT HURT, YOU SLIME!
ZAKIT!
HERE-- LENNE SHOW YA!
UNNNH!
KROOM!!
GET HIM!
a measureless, painful time later--
SO THIS IS THE GREAT AND POWERFUL THOMESHARZUSTRA... THE MAGE OF SHADES...?!

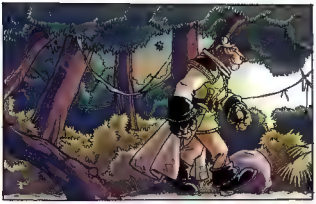
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU...
I KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN HELPING THAT LITTLE BRAT AND HIS FREAKY FRIENDS. I KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN GIVING HIM SO MUCH ADVICE...
WELL, I'M GONNA BE NEEDING A LILL BIT OF THAT... INFORMATION.
I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING!
OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE, YOU OLD GEEZ--
--I'M JUST GONNA TAKE!
NNNGGG--HHNNNN
SO THEY'VE BEEN JOINED BY TWO OTHER TROUBLEMAKERS, HUH?--AND ULF AND A FOX? FINE. THEY'LL DIE TOO...
BUT HE STILL HASN'T FOUND "THE OTHER"... BUT WHO IS...?
OH...SO EVEN YOU, THE GREAT MAGE OF SHADES, DOESN'T KNOW WHO THE OTHER IS...?!
BUT YOUR PROPHECIES TELL SO MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GIRL...BUT NOT ALL OF IT...
BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT TELLING ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW, YOU OLD CRAGS! WHERE ARE THEY?! WHERE IS THAT LITTLE SNOT AND HIS FRIENDS?!?!
NNN-NEVER... YOU P-P-PUNK...
NEVER...TELL YOU...

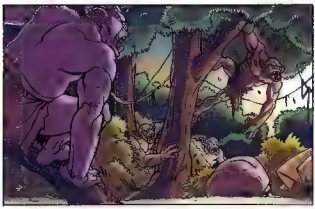
WELL THEN IF YOU WON'T TELL ME, I'LL JUST--
M-MASTER...? APOLOGIES FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BUT THE BOY, THE GIRL, AND THE TIGER HAVE BEEN SPOTTED IN LEMM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF OAKA-LI.
THEY APPROACH THE SPIRE, MASTER.
AHH, WELL, 'MAGE'--THAT WORKED OUT PRETTY GOOD FOR ME, NOT SO GOOD FOR YOU. SEE, NOW THAT I GOT 'EM, I REALLY DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE...
SO...
FWASSSHH!
SORRY TO HAFTA DO THIS TO YA, GEEZ--ACTUALLY, I'M NOT--
--BUT I LIKE TO KEEP MY ENEMIES WHERE THEY CAN'T CAUSE ME ANYMORE TROUBLE...!
C'MON--LET'S GET TO THE SPIRE. THIS'LL BE GONNA BE GOOD!
END?

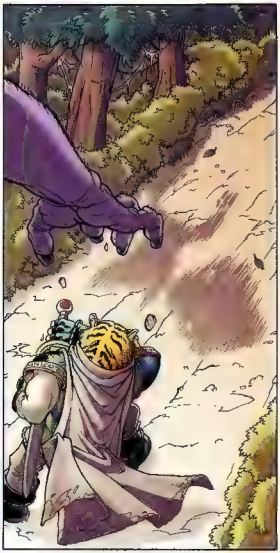

A Walk In
The Wood

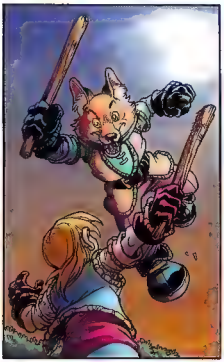


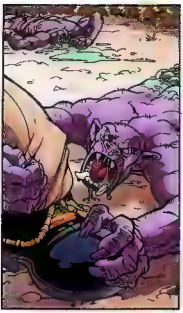


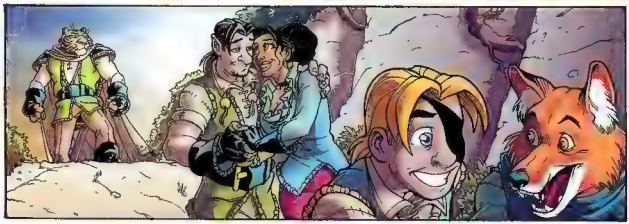


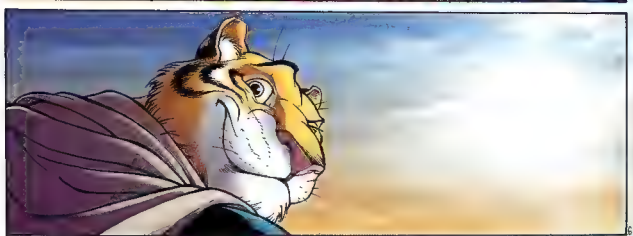












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BLAME THIERRY

In the back of ***Tellos* #7**, I went on in some detail about what a great time Mike and I had when we were invited to France for the debut of the French translation of ***Tellos*** at the world reknowned Festival du Bande Dessinee in Angouleme. (I like this one; 'bande' = band or strip, 'desinnee' = design. comic strip.) We had met our gracious host, Semic Editor in Chief Thierry Mornet, at the San Diego Comicon that year and Mike and I are still amazed at the incredible reception and hospitality that Thierry and his crew extended us. As I like to say; when we arrived they treated us like kings, by the time we left they were treating us like family. Not only were Thierry and his staff -- Carole, Jim, Jeff, Herve, Sylvain -- a talented bunch (the production values on their publications were, and continue to be, just stunning!), but for the week or so that they were charged with keeping Mike and I entertained and out of jail, they truly made us feel like we belonged. And a little French. They translated for us when we were just lost (which was most of the time...), and introduced us to the awesome French food, the culture, the city (we were in Paris too!) and especially, the brilliant French comics!! Mike and I fought with one another over who saw it first as we 'discovered' incredible new Artists at every turn! It was like we'd stepped into a magnificent, colorful new world! Thierry, as in love with comics and the artwork as we were, soon became our brother-in-arms, the three of us fueling each others enthusiasm!

It was during this trip that Thierry first suggested the idea. See, their comics are two and a half times bigger than our traditional 22 page books. And while Mike and I had cranked out two separate 10 page 'shorts' (the stupidly named '***Prologue***' and '***Prelude***', thank you very much) that would comfortably fill up the extra pages at the end of their issues 1 and 2, there were going to be a LOT of empty pages at the ends of issues 3, 4, and 5. Would Mike and I be able to produce a few more of these short stories that they could run in the French ***Tellos***?, Thierry asked. Not very likely, we said. I could certainly write some, but Mike just didn't have the time. Drawing a comic book is a lot of work for anyone, but with ***Tellos***, Mike was usually faced each issue with having to design several new characters as well as all the fantastic buildings, cities, and landscapes.

"What if..." Thierry said, having keenly observed us earlier, clamoring over the various Awesome Artists like a couple of kids, (knowing him as well as I do now, I'm certain that the wheels were turning even before that) "...I could line up some of these French Artists you like so much to draw those stories?" Mike and I were thunderstruck, our eyes wide, our mouths hung open. " You could do that?" we said. "I'm pretty sure I can," he replied, a huge smile on his face and a gleam in his eye.

He could too. (Actually, with his undeniable charm and eternal optimism, his boyish good looks and that freakin' smile, I truly believe Thierry could get Reed Richards and Victor Von Doom on the same page!)

My first transatlantic collaboration was with one of the Artists whose stuff had knocked us out that first day. Crisse and I did the two-part tale that recounts Serra's first trip to sea in the back of ***Tellos*** French 3 and 4, a story which has already been reprinted here as ***Tellos: Maiden Voyage***.

Here, in this and the next issue of ***Tales of Tellos***, are the rest.

First is "***The Mage of Shades***" by Ciro Tota. Thierry once described Ciro as the French John Romita. (or maybe--and I think this is true too--that he's ***friends*** with John Romita... Junior. Or maybe it was Senior . I can't remember. You drink a lot of wine in France.) It didn't matter after I saw his work on ***Aquablue*** and ***Photonik***. His artwork was just breathtaking! And you can certainly see that in this story. (As it turns out, what

Thierry meant was Ciro's ***standing*** in the French comic book community; he is certainly looked to and respected in the same way that we hold John Romita.) I got a chance to meet Ciro on my second trip to France at the Festival at Soilles and I only wish that I had had a chance to talk with him more. The spirit was willing, my French was weak.

It was also on this trip that Thierry told me he would be needing another short little something to fill in some space on the French ***Tellos*** trade paperback (which, if it is possible, was even more beautiful than the original issues!) Just 5 or 6 pages was all he needed. Unfortunately, all the stories I had in mind would take more than 6 pages. Or the timing wasn't right for the information that they would spill. Either way, I was stumped. But Thierry wasn't. "It doesn't have to be anything big,"he said, "maybe just Koj walking through the woods and fighting some monsters or something."

So was born "***A Walk in the Woods***" by Bruno Bessadi. Knowing my love of comics and especially artwork, Thierry would hook me up with a batch of great French comics (albums) from time to time and Bruno's ***Zorn and Dirna*** just kept out of the bunch! Beautiful stuff! And he did a beautiful job on this silent little filler story! Bruno easily portrays Koj as both savage warrior and paternal protector, not an easy feat. I love the gruesome shots too--something inherently cool about seeing a mugwump cut in half! I've never met Bruno but we've shared many e-mails and I really enjoyed working with him.

And finally there's "***The Legend of Oge K'Tion***," by Mauricet. Ah, what can I say about Momo? A good friend of Thierry's (and soon to be ours), Mike and I met Momo, as he's known by his closest of friends, was on hand at that first meeting in San Diego. The Artist/Author of several albums over in France, he is a man of several art styles, from the Aragones-like humor of his book ***Cosmic Patrol***, to the more straightforward work featured in this story. Momo is also the co-creator of the short-lived CrossGen title, ***CrossOvers***. He is a funny guy, and a friend, and he wants everyone to know that he's not French... he's Belgian.

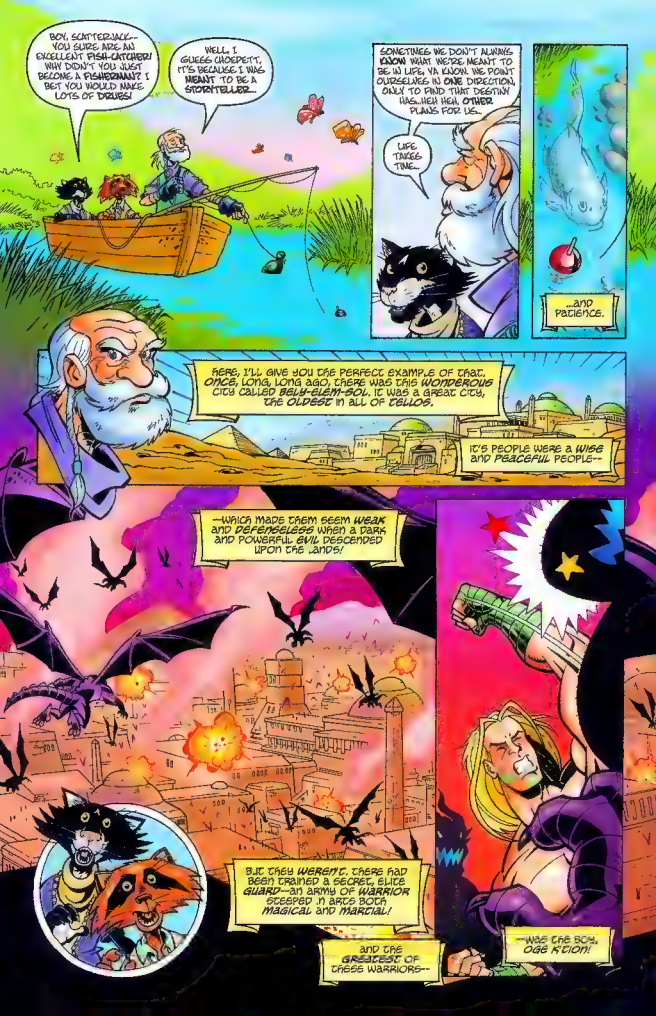
I USUALLY HATE PICTURES OF MYSELF--AND THIS ONE'S NO EXCEPTION--BUT HERE'S THERRY AND ME IN SAN DIEGO FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. AND NO, I'M NOT LOOKING AT HIM ADORINGLY...I'M TRYING TO TELL HIM THAT THESE BLOODY MARYS ARE PRETTY @%#$IN' SPICY.

But mostly, the point of all of this is, you wouldn't be reading these stories if it weren't for one man, Thierry Mornet. He kept ***Tellos*** going over in France when we couldn't keep it going over here. For all of you who have asked me at conventions or on message boards when there would be more ***Tellos***, well, here it is. And it's all because of Thierry. You can throw him a big ***Merci Beaucoup!*** when you see him at San Diego next year. He's the smiling French guy with the dark hair and the comics under his arm.

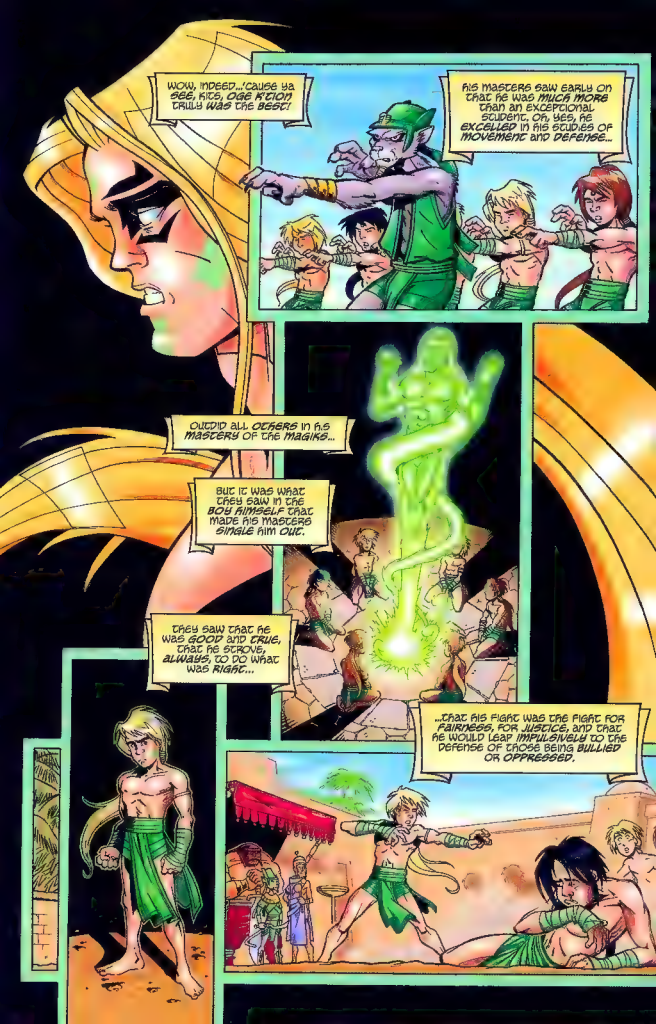
Merci beaucoup, mon frere. A bientot and a tes cotes.

For those of you who might think that the first few pages of "***The Mage of Shades***" seem familiar, it's 'cause they are! Because both this story and "***The Last Heist***" begin at the same departure point from ***Tellos #7***, I gave Ciro and Craig the same three pages of plot to depict/re-establish the scene. They were working on these at the same time and neither one ever saw what the other was drawing. It's kinda cool to look at these pages together and see how two very talented, albeit different Artists interpreted the same scene. Try it! It's cool I'm tellin' ya!

And finally, make sure to check out the ***Tellos Forum*** at www.tellos.proboards34.com created and hosted by our friend and long-time fan, Xavier Boyer. Many of our oh-so-loyal Tellos Family are already posting there and are a friendly bunch and they'll be happy to see you!


BOY, SCATTERJACK--YOU SURE ARE AN EXCELLENT FISH-CATCHER! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST BECOME A FISHERMAN? I BET YOU WOULD MAKE LOTS OF DEBUS!
WELL, I GUESS CHOSEN, IT'S BECAUSE I WAS MEANT TO BE A STORYTELLER...
SOMETIMES WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE IN LIFE, YA KNOW. WE POINT OURSELVES IN ONE DIRECTION, ONLY TO FIND THAT DESTINY HAS HIGH HEN OTHER PLANS FOR US...
LIFE TAKES TIME...
...AND PATIENCE.
HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THAT. ONCE, LONG, LONG AGO, THERE WAS THIS WONDEROUS CITY CALLED BELY-ELEM-BOL. IT WAS A GREAT CITY, THE OLDEST IN ALL OF FELLOS.
IT'S PEOPLE WERE A WISE AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE--
--WHICH MADE THEM SEEM WEAK AND DEFENSELESS WHEN A DARK AND POWERFUL EVIL DESCENDED UPON THE LANDS!
BUT THEY WERE'NT. THERE HAD BEEN TRAINED A SECRET, ELITE GUARD--AN ARMY OF WARRIOR SCEEPED IN ARTS BOTH MAGICAL AND MARTIAL!
AND THE GREATEST OF THESE WARRIORS--
--WAS THE BOY, OGG KTION!

COME, YOUNG K'TON! DALLY NO MORE WITH THOSE MONSTERS! THE TIME IS LATE! YOU ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE!
MASTER THORIS...?! WHAT--
THE SKIES ARE FILLED WITH THEIR BLACKNESS! OUR DEFENSES ARE FALLING! THE TEMPLE IS SOON TO BE BREACHED! DO NOT QUESTION ME, WARRIOR!--
--THE TIME IS COME!
T...
BUT...BUT MASTER THORIS...WHY DO YOU LEAD ME AWAY FROM THE FIGHT? OUR CITY IS UNDER ATTACK! AM I NOT A D'JINN WARRIOR?!--
--YOU MUST LET ME GO INTO BATTLE!
YOU ARE NOT JUST A WARRIOR, K'TON! YOU ARE THE PROTECTOR--THE ONE!
THE BEST...
AND WHILE YOU WOULD INDEED FARE WELL FIGHTING ALONGSIDE YOUR BROTHERS...
"...YOUR DESTINY LIES ELSEWHERE."
WE DESTINY...?
WOW!


WOW, INDEED...'CAUSE YA SEE, KITO, ORE KIZIO! TRULY WAS THE BEST!
HIS MASTERS SAW EARLY ON THAT HE WAS MUCH MORE THAN AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT. OH, YES, HE EXCELLED IN HIS STUDIES OF MOVEMENT AND DEFENSE...
OUTDID ALL OTHERS IN HIS MASTERY OF THE MAGIKS...
BUT IT WAS WHAT THEY SAW IN THE BOY HIMSELF THAT MADE HIS MASTERS SINGLE HIM OUT.
THEY SAW THAT HE WAS GOOD AND TRUE, THAT HE STROVE, ALWAYS, TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT...
...THAT HIS FIGHT WAS THE FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS, FOR JUSTICE, AND THAT HE WOULD LEAP IMPULSIVELY TO THE DEFENSE OF THOSE BEING BULLIED OR OPPRESSED.

MASTER, I AM CONFUSED. HAS MY TRAINING NOT BEEN TO--
--EH? WHAT IS THIS CHANGE? WHY HAVE I NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE...?!
TRUE IT IS, THAT YOU WERE TRAINED A WARRIOR-- A CHAMPION-- AND THAT YOUR MASTERS COULD SEE, RIGHT FROM THE START, THAT YOU WERE THE BEST--
--BUT IN BECOMING THE BEST, YOU UNKNOWINGLY TOOK ON A GOLEM: RESPONSIBILITY, YOUNG KYTON...A DESTINY THAT YOU CANNOT NOW SHIN.
OKE, I'M SAD TO SAY, THAT MIGHT AS EASILY BE...LOOKED ON... AS A CURSE...
RESPONSIBILITY? WHAT--
THAT IS ALL I CAN TELL YOU NOW, WARRIOR.
ONLY THAT THAT RESPONSIBILITY WAITS FOR YOU BELOW...
CHUNK
YER...
VERY WELL, MASTER.

WE MUST ALL MAKE SACRIFICES, OGE KTION. THIS DARKNESS MUST BE VANQUISHED. THE LIGHT MUST FORCE IT BACK.
YOU WILL BE THAT LIGHT.
I DO NOT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, MASTER--
--BUT I WILL TRUST YOU.
AND I HOPE THAT ONE DAY, MY SON--
--YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME AS WELL!
FOLLOW CLOSE, MASTER, AS THIS DARKNESS APPEARS TO SWALLOW THE VERY--
--EH? MASTER THORES?! WHAT ARE YOU--
I AM TRULY SORRY, MY SON--
--BUT MY OWN DESTINY LIES SOMEPLACE ELSE ENTIRELY.
WAIT! MASTER THORES! I CANNOT PROTECT YOU IF YOU--
KLANG!

AS IT WAS HIS MASTER'S SPELL THAT SEALED HIS FATE, OGE K'DION WAS HELPLESS TO ESCAPE, TO JOIN HIS BROTHERS IN BATTLE.
BUT NOT SO HELPLESS THAT HE COULDN'T USE HIS MAGIKS TO MARK THE BATTLE'S PROGRESS!
WHAT HE SAW, HOWEVER, WAS NOTHING GOOD...
THE CITY LAY IN RUIN, MOST OF HER PEOPLE DEAD AND DAMAGED...
THE TEMPLE, IT SEEMED, WAS THE ONLY FORTRESS NOT YET BROKEN.
BUT SOON, EVEN IT'S DOORS...

...FELL BEFORE THE FORCES OF THE GREAT EVIL!
MASTER THORIS--
--NOOOOO!!
HIS SCREAM RANG OUT AND ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE STREETS OF THE WAR-TORN CITY--

—FOLLOWED BY A LONG, DEATHLY CALM.
AND THEN—
THOUGH THEY WERE LOST, THE LIFE-ENERGIES OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD OF THE RAVAGED CITY OF BEL-ELEM-SOL ROSE...AND COALESCED—
?
—SPINNING AND SPIRALLING IN THE BLOOD-STAINED SKIES HIGH ABOVE THE TEMPLE...
BUILDING, BURNING— SEARCHING FOR A CONDUIT...A VESSEL....

...& ROSE...!
K-KRAKK!
BOOOM!
CHOOOM!
SHOOM!
WHA...
I...I... KNOW!
I KNOW WHAT I AM NOW...!
I AM THE CHOSEN! I AM THE LAST OF THE D'JINN!--

--I AM THE WARRIOR OF THE LIGHT!
CHOOOM!
BRRRUMBLE!
CHOOOM!
TO BE CONTINUED...
MAURICET
+ BOUBKI

THE COLDEST OF SCANS
COLDKILLER-DCP
LIVE